

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A toner including toner particles, each toner particle comprising:  
a core ~~partieles~~ particle formed by flocculating and fusion-bonding at least resin microparticles and colorant microparticles dispersed in a fluid dispersion; and  
two or more coating layers formed over the core particles,  
wherein ~~a wax is added to at least one of the coating layer(s) but for the outermost coating layer, and the core particles at least one of said coating layers except for an outermost coating layer, contains a wax, [[and]]~~  
wherein a ratio  $d/r$  between an average thickness  $d$  of the overall coating layers and a volume average particle size  $r$  of the core particles is in the range of 0.01 to 0.6, and wherein said resin microparticles comprise a resin containing a radical polymerizable monomer having an acidic group as a building block.

2. (Currently Amended): The toner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a resin constitutes said outermost coating layer and said resin has a glass transition point  $T_g$  of 55°C or more.

3. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a volume average particle size of said toner particles is in the range of 2 to 8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended): The toner as claimed in Claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said ~~resin contains a radical polymerizable monomer having an acidic group~~ is present in the resin in concentrations of 0.1 to 20 mass ~~[[wt]]~~%.

6. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ratio d/r is in the range of 0.01 to 0.1.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a content of the wax is 0.5 to 12 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the resin contained in the toner particles.

9. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the resin constituting said outermost coating layer has a glass transition point T<sub>g</sub> of 60° C or more.

10. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an average thickness d of said overall coating layers is in the range of 0.02 to 2.2 μm.

11. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 10, wherein an average thickness d of said overall coating layers is in the range of 0.02 to 1 μm.

12. (Original): The toner as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a volume average particle size of said toner particles is in the range of 2 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 13. through 20. (Canceled)

21. (New): The toner of claim 1, wherein the radical polymerizable monomer having an acidic group includes a monomer containing a carboxylic group or a sulfonic group, and at least a part of the radical polymerizable monomer having the acidic group optionally has a structure of an alkali metal salt or an alkaline earth metal salt.

22. (New): The toner of claim 3, wherein said ratio  $d/r$  is in the range of 0.01 to 0.1.

23. (New): The toner of claim 5, wherein an average thickness  $d$  of said overall coating layers is in the range of 0.02 to 2.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

24. (New): The toner of claim 23, wherein an average thickness  $d$  of said overall coating layers is in the range of 0.02 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

25. (New): The toner of claim 24, wherein said ratio  $d/r$  is in the range of 0.01 to 0.3.

26. (New): The toner of claim 1, wherein the core particles and at least one of said coating layers but for the outermost coating layer both contain a wax.